THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. After obtaining the clearance of the appropriate authority, the National Diary Develoment Board has been packing and marketing edible oils in one litre tetra packs.

(b) The National Diary Development Board buys oil both from growers co-operatives and from the open market. During the oil year 1989-90 growers co-operatives paid on as average Rs. 7240 per tonne to the farmers for purchase of groundnuts.

(c) The total packing material cost of edible oil works out to Rs. 3.02 per litre. The tetra pack paper is being manufactured in India and no foreign payment is involved.

(d) The National Diary Development Board is marketing 'Dhara' oils through the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation. The Federation in turn uses a chain of wholesale dealers and through them thousands of retailers across the country. The margins allowed for these agencies are 2.5 per cent to the Federation, 3 per cent to wholesale dealers and 6 per cent for retailers. In Delhi NDDB is also marketing 'Dhara' oils through its own fruits and vegetables outlets. Consumers by and large are satisfied with quality and prices of 'Dhara' oils.

(e) NDDB is marking 'Dhara' oils through its own network of fruits and vegetables outlets in Delhi. In addition, it is also marketing through the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation's network of retail outlets in order to maximise the reach to consumers.

Encouragement of organic farming

1307. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US experts have recently highlighted the need for switching over to organic farming and sustainable agriculture during the Indo-US Workshop held recently in New Delhi;

(b) whether ICAR and India's scientists had been negligent in this frontier area by not undertaking any organised and well planned R&D and also disregarding Voluntary Groups engaged in promoting organic farming;

(c) whether a high powered task force or a technology mission would be set up on Organic Farming and controlled trials would be undertaken at each of the ICAR Institutes/Agricultural Universities/Government and State farms and National Demonstration Farms/KVK etc. throughout the country at the earliest; and

(d) whether non Government Organisations would also be suitably involved in this work?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Development of integrated nutrient management systems involving organics suited to different agro-climatic regions is being given due emphasis in the research programmes of ICAR Institutes and State Agril. Universities and the results are being advocated for adoption through extension system.

(d) Yes, Sir.

डी० आई० जैड० एरिया के केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग सेवा केन्द्र के पूछताछ कार्यालय पर तैनात कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

1308. श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया : क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) डी.आई.जैड. एरिया, सै.-4, केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण सेवा केन्द्र के पूछताछ कार्यालय पर तैनात कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान कुल कितनी लिखित शिकायतें प्राप्त हैं, तथा इसी अवधि के दौरान उन्होंने कितना कार्य किया है ;